

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 34, NO. 1

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HOTEL BILTMORE • 55 EAST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 • (212) 687-2430

White House Supports Press

Reporters have a friend in Washington. He lives in the White House.

In December, the Carter Administration revealed details of legislation it plans to introduce in Congress that will curb threats posed by the Supreme Court's May 1978 decision in the *Sanford Daily* case. The Administration contends that the court's decision to allow police searches of newsrooms with only a warrant and not a subpoena "poses a serious threat to the ability of the press to gather information and to protect confidential sources."

Chief briefing officer at the announcement meeting was Assistant Attorney General Philip Heymann in charge of the criminal division. He stressed that the contemplated legislation would be "A First Amendment bill, not just a press bill." At the heart of the matter will be an absolute prohibition on warrant searches for the "work product." He defined "work product" as any documentary materials created by or for an individual in connection with his or her plans for disseminating information to the public — i.e. notes, photographs, tapes, files etc.

To get things rolling, President Carter has named a Special Task Force under Attorney General Griffin Bell to study the situation and submit recommendations. Among the concerns are:

- The possibility that confidential press sources might disappear.
- The possibility of disrupting news operations.
- The possibility that insiders — government sources were mentioned — might be afraid to "blow the whistle."
- The possibility of official abuses.

After completion of the study, President Carter proposes to recommend legislation prohibiting the use of search warrants for review and seizure of the "work product."

As planned, protection will be given not only to members of the established media, but also to freelance writers,

(Continued on page 3)

The staff of the Overseas Press Club, Mary Novick, manager, Anthony Muraco, bookkeeper and Gloria Swing, secretary, wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the club's Christmas fund for employees.

The staff of the Hotel Biltmore who have provided services to the OPC would also like to thank you for your contributions.

We would also like to wish you the very best in the coming New Year.

OPC Xmas Party Draws Full House

Christmas 1978 was ushered in at the OPC with one of the liveliest parties in recent years. Not only was a good time had by all, but most of the 130 members and guests won handsome door prizes. Thanks to the grab bag and a donation of eighty wine containers negotiated by Bob Misch, no one went away emptyhanded.

Tommy Valvo played the piano and Larry Stessin donned a Santa suit for the occasion, but no one was fooled: Larry's voice gave him away as he called out the winning doorprize numbers.

Christmas always brings at least one miracle and this year was no exception. John Stone, a friend of the Club, spoke persuasively to powers at the Biltmore, which resulted in a gift of hot d'oeuvres from the hotel for the OPC party. Thanks, John! Thanks, Biltmore: Thanks, Santa!

Many hands combined to make the occasion memorable:

Jean Monaghan, for obtaining subscriptions to *Life*, *Cue*, *Esquire*, *TV Guide*, and for bottles of scotch and vodka.

Bob Misch, for bottles of wine, along with those eighty clever wine containers.

Richard Miller, president of Harry Levine Handbags, for some beautiful door prizes.

George Bums, via Bacardi Rum public relations man Frank Doherty,

(Continued on page 2)

Biltmore Drops Food Service

Food service has been discontinued at OPC's Biltmore Hotel quarters, except for special luncheon programs, under a new lease signed by the Club and effective Dec. 26.

After two months of closed-door negotiations with Inot Realty Corp., our new landlords, the OPC Executive Committee finally was able to forge a revised lease that, in the words of one Committee member, "We can live with."

At a special meeting of the Board of Governors Dec. 18 the conditions of the new lease were discussed and debated and President Henry Gellermann was authorized to sign for the Club.

There is both good and bad news in the new contract:

In the good-news column, the Club no longer is bound by the provisions guaranteeing eighty "covers" (individual meals per day). This economic millstone — which was part of our old lease — is one reason for our current dispute with our former landlord, Realty Hotels.

The bad news is that there will be no food service in the Club except for group events such as "Shop Talk" and Headliner luncheon programs, when the hotel has agreed to cater the meals. The bar will continue to be open from noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, closing an hour earlier than before.

Members wishing to eat in the hotel may use the Guard Room, a public restaurant in the lobby, where Inot Realty has promised to set aside special tables for the OPC. As an added incentive, members and guests will be given a 15 per cent discount off the regular hotel menu prices; it should be noted, however, that the Guard Room is open only for lunch.

Describing the new lease as "less than ideal," President Gellermann said that the membership "long ago was alerted to the realities of today's economics and how they are changing club life in New York City. It is not just the OPC but all clubs that are being forced

(Continued on page 2)

New LOOK "Shop Talk" Feb. 13

There's a new Look in "Shop Talk."

At noon on Tuesday, February 13, Robert Gutwillig, Look Magazine's new president, c.e.o. and editor will tell OPC members and guests about his plans for the new *Look*. Accompanied by key staff members, ex-Playboy executive Gutwillig will explain why his new magazine will be a viable alternative to the new *Life*.

Originally scheduled for February 19 (which is a holiday for most), Le Anne Schreiber's "Shop Talk" evening has been recast for Monday, February 26. The Schreiber-fest is scheduled for a 5:30 PM start. As the first woman sports editor of the *New York Times*, the 31-year old ex-editor of Billie Jean King's ill-fated women Sports (sic) will tell what it is like to move and motivate her staff of 50 persons.

Evening "Shop Talks" are free; there is a cash bar. However, "Shop Talk" luncheons, by virtue of the Club's new arrangement with the landlord, are expected to double in price. They are now catered by the hotel's Banquet Department. Cost estimate for the *Look* luncheon is \$13 for members; \$15 for guests (reservations: Mary Novick 687-2430).

JAZZ NIGHT JAN. 30

"Beiderbecke and Beyond," a program exploring historic jazz generations with excursions into the future, will be given by the Ken Werner Quintette Tuesday, January 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the OPC in a twilight jazz session free to members. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Performing with Werner are Jamey Haddad, drummer-percussionist; Bill Drewes on reeds; Pete Cennis, trap drums; and Scott Lee on bass. Inspiration for the program had a start with the release earlier this year of the pianist-leader's album: "Ken Werner Plays the Piano Music of Bix Beiderbecke, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, James P. Johnson."

Since its release, the 26-year-old Werner, a native New Yorker, has shifted into new dimensions in jazz with the creative support of his quintette colleagues. He studied classical music in school, with time out at age 11 to cut his first single for Stadium Records, "September Song." He majored in piano at the Manhattan School of Music and went on to Berklee School of Music, renowned for its international school of jazz.

(Continued on page 3)

BEST OF BRENNAN

An exhibit of Francis Brennan's best drawings is on display in the Club's Hotel Biltmore quarters through January.

He is world-famous for his work in art-journalism with the nation's top news magazines, including *LIFE*, *FORTUNE*, *TIME* and *NEWSWEEK*, as art editor, director and design consultant over the past 40 years.

He also is a leading book and magazine designer. Come and look.

Seminar for Journalists

The National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, plans to support nine humanities seminars for journalists in 1979. The seminars, which meet during the summer at selected colleges and universities, will bring journalists together for a month of full-time study under the direction of distinguished critics, historians, philosophers, political scientists, and other scholars.

Four seminars are open to full-time journalists in all sectors of the print and broadcast media. They deal with such topics as moral values in American politics, the relationship between technology and democratic ideals in contemporary society, an analysis of major themes in twentieth-century American fiction, and freedom of information in the international arena. Five other seminars are intended for members of various professions, including journalism. These will deal with value conflict in Western society, the economic and cultural effects of our market economy, the cultural foundations of U.S.-Asian relations, individualism in American society, and the influence of contemporary religious movements.

From 12 to 15 persons will attend each seminar tuition-free, receiving a stipend of up to \$1,200 to cover expenses, plus travel cost. For further information write:

Professions Program
Division of Fellowships, MS 101
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, D.C. 20506

FOOD SERVICE (From page 1)

to change," he commented. "In the future, we will stress the professional side of our club more than the social."

He said he is appointing a special committee to examine ways to return the OPC to a full club-oriented operation and provide related services "when this becomes possible."

—Charles Schreiber

Fiction Workshop At OPC Jan. 25

A conference for professional writers, sponsored jointly by the American Society of Journalists and Authors and Overseas Press Club, will be held Thursday, January 25, at the Overseas Press Club, Biltmore Hotel, New York, from 9 to 5 p.m. for members.

Speakers include: Maureen Baron, executive editor, Gold Medal Books, Fawcett. Nancy Coffey, executive editor, editorial director, Avon Originals/Avon Books. Tom Congdon, Thomas Congdon Books, E.P. Dutton & Co. Thomas L. Dunne, executive editor, St. Martins Press. George Glay, senior editor, Harlequin Books. Newton A. Koltz, senior editor, Bantam Books. Richard Marek, publisher, Richard Marek Associates. Kenneth McCormick, senior consultant editor, Doubleday. Ann Reit, editor, Scholastic Books. Sol Stein, publisher, Stein & Day.

Presentations and discussions will bring into focus techniques of turning fact into fiction, novel writing—including genre books—and young adult fiction, and problem-solving using specific examples.

Limited seating requires advance registration. Send check for \$25 (includes lunch and coffee-break) to Mary Novick, OPC, Biltmore Hotel, N.Y. 10017, or call (212) 687-2430.

XMAS PARTY

(Continued from page 1)

obtained the donation of (what else?) bottles of Bacardi.

Joe Callahan, via D.J. Flannery and Ms. M. Abrogio, for gifts of Coty products.

Dell Publishing Co., Inc., and Dellacorte Press for several books of current interest.

Harry Levin, for gifts from American Cyanamid.

Five donations were so valuable they were raffled off rather than given away. For these gifts, 180 chances were sold at \$1 each, and three lucky people walked off with generous baskets of cheer. Two super-lucky people (one was our pianist, Tommy Valvo) won \$100 First National City Bank travelers checks, which were donated by Ralph McEldowney, senior vice president of Citibank, as he has done in the past. Special thanks to Ralph and George Burns for this bonanza.

Last, our thanks to Helen Lund, chairperson of the Hospitality Committee, and her hardworking staff. Anyone wishing to serve on the Committee is invited to write Helen at the Club.

—Rosalind Moore

CHINA, THEN AND NOW

Back in the early "Fifties," as Information Officer with the U.S. Marshall Plan based in Manila, my visits to Hong Kong and the New Territories were encounters with some of old China. Coming back 25 years later as a visiting professor in Hong Kong was a cultural shock.

Hong Kong is like an overgrown New York Chinatown, with wall-to-wall people. And since there is little room to move around, they've gone underground in one direction, and vertical, with high-rise buildings, on the other. However at night, as the Star Ferry plows back and forth across the "Fragrant Harbor" between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, it is still an enchanting city.

Block by block the People's Republic is becoming one of the largest landowners. Large PRC department stores and office buildings are joining the jackhammer parade of expanding capitalism. This portfolio now includes some of the bustling night life sites and topless bars of Wanchi.

While there is concern over the Mainland taking back the New Territories by 1999, as an old treaty with Britain implies, it would probably not be economically feasible for them to do so. Although socialism is alive and well in China, entrepreneurship has never been entirely purged from the Chinese psyche.

Much of the newsgathering about China is channelled out of Hong Kong, and the Foreign Correspondents Club is a major source of Mainland gossip. Unfortunately, too many American journalists depend primarily on this source. There does not appear to be enough in-depth Mandarin skill to go around in the American reportorial community. Conversely, the Japanese and German journalists are deeply into the language and culture, as are most other Europeans.

Some Japanese reporters such as Ito of *Asahi Shinbun*, Yamamoto of *Mainichi* and Asakawa of *Tokyo Shinbun* grew up in China and speak Mandarin as a native language. On a trip with them into Peking and Manchuria, they were more accurate in translating the Chinese orientation meeting into English than was the Chinese interpreter with the group.

Bob Liu, AP bureau chief in Hong Kong, is atypical of the U.S. writers in the area, being fluent in several dialects. Yet none of the reporters in Hong Kong had picked up any signals on the recognition agreement between the U.S. and China announced in December.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Active Overseas

Clark Todd, NBC News correspondent
SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann, Matt Bassity

Active Non-Resident

James Blair, National Geographic, staff photographer
SPONSORS: Robert E. Sheridan, Henry Gellermann
Kay Cassill, People Magazine, N.Y. Times Syndication, special correspondent
SPONSORS: Edward von Rothkirch, Matt Bassity
Jerry Vondas, Pittsburgh Press, feature writer
SPONSORS: Harry Levin, Norwood Allman

Associate Resident

Nicole Bourgois, American Association for the International Commission of Jurists, Executive Secretary
SPONSORS: Laurie Nadel, Lelei LeLaulu
Lourdes F. Raman, Channel 47TV, producer and writer
SPONSORS: Tom Mechling, John Guenther

Under 30

Dewan Shalini, United Nations, assistant information officer
SPONSORS: Mrs. Charles Speaks, Patricia Ludorf
Harvey Wm. Greisman, Allied Chemical Corp. manager, public relations
SPONSORS: Philip Fried, Kenneth Kovaly

NEW MEMBER

Active Non-Resident

Stanley G. Budner

REINSTATEMENT

Active Non-Resident

Dr. Henry Singer

This happenstance may be the reason so much of our China reporting in the U.S. is less detailed and usually much later than Japanese or European sources. There are very few Ted Whites around any more.

Travelling with the Japanese journalists in China last summer, it was apparent they were doing an intensive job of digging economic data for their organizations. They were sticklers for hard data, production figures, distribution facts. Japan, it appears, is on the way toward more successful penetration through economic means than they ever achieved through military conquest. Much of it is due to the aggressive, efficient and thorough work of their frontline journalists.

Now that a new era of Sino-American relations is in the offing, perhaps the U.S. press will field some multilingual "China hands" to dig for hard news the China watchers failed to see.

—Henry Singer

JAZZ NIGHT

(Continued from page 2)

Werner also is a composer and is currently at work writing a big band and choral composition which will be presented at the Church of St. John's the Divine this month.

WHITE HOUSE (From page 1)

academicians and others involved in the information-gathering and dissemination process. The Administrations position can be summarized by its "subpoena-first" stance. Enforcement of the proposed legislation will be through creation of a civil damage action condition in favor of anyone subjected to a search in violation of the requirements of the statute.

PLACEMENT

DAILY Q AND A columnist needs part-time help. Must be experienced writer-researcher, preferably with experience in social work. Sense of humor required. Send resume and writing sample to OPC Box A.

WESTERN UNION

has pioneered in electronic communication for 125 years. Beginning with a revolutionary idea first conceived by Samuel F.B. Morse, the company has grown to provide the United States with its first domestic communications satellite system, Westar®. New organization, new technologies, new capabilities and a host of new services give assurances that as America enters its third century, Western Union will continue to be the fastest way to get the word around.

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OPC BULLETIN

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John Guenther, Chairman and Editor; Helen Alpert, Matt Bassity, Ruth Biemiller, George Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Ben G. Frank, Thomas J. Kraner, Ralph Leviton, Rosalind Moore, Grace Naismith, Rebecca Riger.

Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

HONORS: Wilmott Ragsdale has received the \$1,000 Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Wisconsin.... **Ben Wright**, former Chairman and president of THIS WEEK MAGAZINE, has been named a Jimmy Doolittle Fellow of the Aerospace Education Foundation of the Air Force Association.

Wright's Fellowship was sponsored by a grant from the Iron Gate Chapter of the AFA to the Foundation.

NEW LOOK: Robert Trumbull is in a new station for *The New York Times* as correspondent for the Pacific area, based in Honolulu. His former post in Ottawa has been taken over by Henry Giniger, moved from Montreal. The Montreal bureau has been closed and a new one set up in Toronto in charge of Andrew H. Malcolm, formerly of the Tokyo bureau. Before reporting at the Hawaii base, Trumbull revisited earlier Times travel points — four weeks touring Micronesia, covering some 9,000 miles. New Address: 431 Nahua Street, Apt. 1107, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.... **Wilton Wynn**, recently stationed in Cairo, is back in New York — Time-Life News Service, Rockefeller Plaza, New York 10020.... **Mark C. Rutman**, has been named president of Grey & Davis, the wholly-owned public relations subsidiary of Grey Advertising. Rutman, 48, ran his own pr business for 20 years before merging his firm with Grey & Davis last September when he became executive vice president.... **William A. Brannigan**, former ABC Network News correspondent has joined Bank of America in San Francisco World Headquarters as manager of radio/television, a newly created position in the bank's news relations. Brannigan has served ABC in posts in Viet Nam, where he was awarded the Press Fellowship of the Council of Foreign Relations for his reporting from Southeast Asia, and later was assigned to Tel Aviv, then established the Nairobi Bureau, then the Cairo Bureau. He is 42.... **Jaime Reibel**, having completed his tour with the International Voluntary Services, Inc., is now writing a veterinary guide for use by Indians and subsistence farmers with PREDESUR, an integrated Ecuadorian-Peruvian Government development organization. Reibel still writes for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and says he is "always open for free-lance assignments anywhere in Ecuador." Address: Ing. Jaime Isaac Reibel, a/c Correo Central, Canton de

Saraguro, Province de Loja, Ecuador S.A.

BOOKS: Lester R. Bittel is author of a new 1,344-page book, "Encyclopedia of Professional Management," selection of The Executive Book Club and Book of the Month Club. Formerly editor and publisher of business magazines for McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and director of information systems of the company, Bittel is now Associate Professor of Business at James Madison University. "The grass is green down here in the Shenandoah Valley," he writes from Academy Hall, Box 236, Bridgewater, Va. 22812.... **Jack Galub** has a new illustrated book being published soon by Prentice-Hall. Title: "The U.S. Air Force Academy Fitness Program for Women."... **Edward L. Bernays** wrote the forward to WICI member Lilli Freud-Marie's new book "In My Uncle's House."

COLUMN: New, by **Herbert Silverman**, a column on all aspects of business travel, foreign and domestic, for the *Westchester Business Journal* and the *Connecticut Business Journal*, weekly newspapers published in Harrison, N.Y.

LITERARY AGENT Anita Diamant has an article in the January "The Writer" called "The 10% Solution." She also spoke recently at the Woman Pays Club on what is expected of an agent.

* * * *

James Flowers in the January/February issue of *The Saturday Evening Post* with an article on General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe. The article is featured in the Norman Rockwell memorial issue—obviously a collector's item—and the Post has printed a mil-

lion copies. United Features also recently syndicated Jim's three-parter based on the Haig material.

SEEN ON THE SCENE: OPC corner of the Guard Room at the Biltmore: **Jack Raymond** and **Sam Summerlin**, at separate tables.

SAD NEWS: Sterling Fisher, a former OPC member, and widely known journalist and public affairs specialist, died December 1, at 79, at his home in California. Fisher went from *The New York Times* in 1930 to CBS in 1937, to NBC in 1942, and finally to *The Reader's Digest* in 1950. He retired as director of Public Affairs in 1967, following several years as general manager of R.D. in the Far East... *The Reader's Digest* has also lost another retired writer, James Monahan, who was a roving editor, especially in the medical field.

Up-and-coming

Thursday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. — FICTION WRITERS WORKSHOP. \$25 includes lunch. Reservations. Class limited to 50.

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. — TWILIGHT JAZZ, with Ken Werner and his Quintette, "Beiderbecke and Beyond." Admission free to OPC members. Seating on a first-come basis.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 12 noon luncheon — "Shop Talk" LOOK magazine presentation, with Robert Gutwillig, editor, president and chief operating officer, and guests.

Monday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m. — "Shop Talk" Leanne Schreiber, new sports editor, *New York Times* (postponed from Feb. 19).

Are your name, title, and address correct? If not... make corrections on the mailing panel below, insert in envelope and return it to the OPC!

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
Hotel Biltmore, 55 East 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

FIRST CLASS

